

Finland - On the Trail of the Wolverine

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 10 July 2016



Wolverine



European Brown Bear



Red-throated Diver



Bohemian Waxwing

Report and images by Esa Muikku



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Esa Muikku (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Thursday 7th July

Heathrow to Helsinki to Kuopio

The group arrived at Kuopio airport at approximately 17.50 hours where they were met by Esa the guide. They then drove to Lieksa arriving at the hotel Puustelli at 20.30 hours, which was to be the tour accommodation for the first night. After supper the group retired for the night..

Day 2

Friday 8th July

The group met at 9am for a briefing on the coming day's activities and then headed out visiting a number of sites. The Pappilanluhta bird area and bird tower and a nearby local field was worth checking. We then visited Reposuo (an open bog area) Nature reserve and the bird tower there, followed by Lehtovaara to look for Siberian Flying Squirrel. After 90 mins and no sightings we had a few snacks then headed to Eero's place for lunch.

After Lunch, at 15.30 hrs, we headed for the Wolverine hide for our overnight stay. The first Wolverine appeared at 22.00 hrs and was followed by a Brown Bear at 22.25 which remained until midnight.

Day 3

Saturday 9th July

We continued our sightings in the hide and at 02.00hrs a Wolverine remained in the area for an hour and also swam in the pond

We left the hide at 08.00 hrs and went for breakfast followed at 09.00 by a birding trip to Patvinsuo National Park, stopping on route to see a Red-throated Diver on a pond near to the Eero's main base

We had a late lunch at Eero's place and then returned to the hide. A Wolverine appeared at 16.40hrs, very close to the hide and remained until 17.00. Wolverines were also seen at 20.50 and 21.15 hours. A Brown Bear appeared again at 22.10hrs and again at 23.00 and in the distance we heard wolf howling.

Day 4

Sunday 10th July

We remained in the hide until 07.30 with our last Wolverine sighting an hour earlier

We went for breakfast and sauna before saying our goodbyes after a fascinating insight into the life of the Wolverine, and commenced our journey back to the UK.

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Species Lists

Mammals (H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	July			
			7	8	7	10
1	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>		1	1	
2	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		2	2	
3	Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>		1	2	1
4	Eurasian Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>			H	

Birds

1	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			1	
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		14	9	9
3	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>		1		
4	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		4	6	
5	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		1		
6	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		3		
7	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			1	
8	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>			1	
9	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		4		
10	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			1	
11	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			1	
12	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			2	
13	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1
14	Common (Mew) Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		12	13	
15	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		1	1	
16	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			1	
17	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		3		
18	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		4		
19	European Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		1	1	
20	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		3		
21	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			1	2
22	Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1	1	1
23	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		3	15	
24	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		1	1	
25	Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>			1	
26	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1	1	
27	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>			1	
28	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			1	
29	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		4	3	4
30	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>			2	
31	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		1	4	
32	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			1	1
33	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				1
34	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			2	
35	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			1	
36	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>				1
37	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				1
38	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			1	
39	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			1	2
40	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		22	20	

	Common name	Scientific name	July			
			7	8	7	10
41	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	3			6
42	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		1		1
43	Common Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>				4
44	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			1	3
45	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		1	1	
46	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>			3	
47	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		3		

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